Export of Iron-Ore by MMTC

†2737. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector company MMTC exports around four crore ton iron-ore every year;

(b) whether the MMTC exports at the rate of 44 dollar per ton, whereas iron-ore's cost in the open market is 54 dollar per ton;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the actual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. The iron ore exports by MMTC during the last three years is as follows:-

(Qty. in Million Tonnes)

Year	Quantity
2003-04	10.51
2004-05	11.78
2005-06 (Provisional)	10.08

(b) to (d) The prices for Iron Ore supplies to Japanese Steel Mills and POSCO, South Korea, who are the long term buyers, are the benchmark prices which are fixed every year and are applicable for supplies throughout the respective year. The bench-mark price for Iron Ore export for the current financial year 2006-07 for Lumps range from US$ 56.80 to US$ 60.02 per Dry Long Tonne and for Fines is US$ 46.57 per Dry Long Tonne. For export of Iron Ore to China, MMTC finalises the prices on a spot basis which fluctuate depending on demand from the Chinese steel industry.

Pending proposals for AEZs

2738. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.